



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Most wanted child support evader convicted

Richmond -- The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) has announced that Ralph M. Saunders, one of the Commonwealth's "Most Wanted" child support evaders, has been arrested and convicted to serve twelve months in jail.

Saunders, an electrician, whose last known address was La Pine, Ore., was arrested at the home of his sister in Bluemont, Va. Saunders was profiled on Virginia's 2005 "Most Wanted" poster and now owes his child \$37,073 in delinquent child support.

An outstanding *capias* had been issued for Saunders' arrest for failure to appear in the Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in May, 2000. At that time, he was under a suspended jail sentence of twelve months for failure to pay.

On Nov. 1, 2005, Judge Pamela Grizzle of the Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court remanded Saunders to the custody of the Loudoun County Sheriff and ordered him to serve the previously suspended 12-month sentence.

Nick Young, DCSE Director said, "In an effort to locate delinquent parents, we are now publishing, along with the yearly 'Most Wanted' poster, more frequent full-page ads in Virginia newspapers. Each ad profiles over 50 non-custodial parents who owe child support."

Virginia also is the first state to subpoena cell phone records in order to locate delinquent parents.

"Right now in the Commonwealth, we have 484,000 children on the child support rolls, representing almost one-quarter of the Commonwealth's child population, many of whom are owed \$2.2 billion in delinquent child support," said Young.

For more information on Virginia's "Most Wanted," visit

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/wanted.html> on the Virginia Department of Social Services' Web site.

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